

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 2.4% (3,000) reside in the Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District. 2% (65) of admissions from the Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 75% were male and 25% were female.
- 65% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 76% were white non-Latino, 5% were black non-Latino, 15% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 70% were never married, 13% were married, and 17% reported not to be married now.
- 29% had less than high school education, 53% completed high school, and 18% had more than high school education.
- 23% were employed.
- 17% were homeless.
- 24% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	31%	44%	5%	6%	1%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,342	1,691	684	851	545	958	629
FY '96	2,643	1,826	763	908	599	1,240	808
FY '97	2,484	1,778	763	740	394	1,023	716
FY '98	2,473	1,688	697	693	347	1,121	791
FY '99	2,686	1,864	710	812	317	1,335	940
FY '00	2,926	1,902	725	781	235	1,494	1,094
FY '01	2,898	1,718	653	781	243	1,473	1,012
FY '02	3,000	1,744	626	752	206	1,515	1,044

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Sixteenth Suffolk Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

